

Farm Buildings

"Hayfields" near Cockeysville,
Baltimore County, Maryland.

HABS No. Md. 15

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MD.

3. Cockeysville

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Reduced Copies & Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Maryland

Historic American Buildings Survey
John H. Scarff, District Officer
1012 Keyser Building, Baltimore, Md.

FARM BUILDINGS
"HAYFIELDS"
Baltimore County
Maryland

OWNERS

The five children and heirs of Nicholas Bosley Merryman of whom Nicholas Bosley Merryman, Jr., Ruxton, Baltimore County, Maryland is the oldest.

DATE OF ERECTION

Old farm house and first group of farm buildings prior to 1811. The newer dwelling and the second group of farm buildings after 1811

ARCHITECT

Unknown

BUILDER

Unknown

PRESENT CONDITION

Fair

NUMBER OF STORIES

One, two and three

MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION

Stone and brick, wood roof and floor construction, and shingle roof.

OTHER EXISTING RECORDS

"History of Baltimore City and County" by J. Thomas Scharf, 1881

"The Chesapeake Bay Country" by Swepson Earle.

Land records

Records, Sherwood P.E. Church
Cockeysville, Maryland.

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HISTORICAL DATA:

William Nicholson took up a tract of 4200 acres of land which he called Nicholson Manor in what is now Baltimore County June 20, 1719. It is described as along the western run of the Gunpowder between Waterspout Branch and the Shawan Cabin Branch (now Oregon Branch). It was at somewhat later date acquired by Roger Boyce and in part in 1764 by Joseph Bosley.

In the early years of the nineteenth century Nicholas Merryman Bosley purchased four distinct pieces of land, all parts of the original Nicholson Manor. The first of these 159-1/4 acres he acquired in 1811 for \$ 6348.00, from Joseph and William Bosley; the second, 187 acres in 1812 for \$ 6500.00 from John Naylor who had earlier acquired it direct from Roger Boyce. This parcel was known as Naylor's Field. In 1813 and again in 1819 he acquired more land from William Bosley, et al, one of these pieces was called West Lodge another Hayfields, combining all into one estate of more than five hundred acres he called it "Hayfields". Later West Lodge was willed separately, but the remaining land consisting of over five hundred acres has come down intact to the present owners.

Nicholas Merryman Bosley built the second and larger dwelling and the second group of farm buildings. From his time also date the walled garden, the green houses and the lemon tree pit, and under his administration the estate reached its highest development.

In 1824, during the visit of General Lafayette to the United States, he was presented by the hand of the General with a silver "Can" inscribed;

By the hand of LAFAYETTE from the Md. Ag. Soc.

"Best cultivated farm"

to COL. N. M. BOSLEY

November 24th 1824

Sio pura floreant

He died February 16th 1847 at the age of 73 years and bequeathed "Hayfields" to his nephew John Merryman and in succession to his next male heir. Nicholas Merryman Bosley's mother had been Rebecca Merryman, his father Amon. His nephew was henceforth known as John Merryman of "Hayfields". He was born August 9th, 1824.

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HISTORICAL DATA- Continued;

The Merrymans had settled in Maryland from Herefordshire, England under the first Lord Proprietor, about 1650. They lived in a tract called by them "Hereford" some eight miles north of Hayfields on the old Baltimore and York Turnpike. John Merryman as first lieutenant of the Baltimore County Horse Guards, accompanied his command to the city after the attack on the Massachusetts troops on April 19, 1861. The next day he was detailed with a small force to establish a post at Hayfields, and was in communication there with Major Belger, of the Federal Army, who was trying to turn back to Pennsylvania the Union soldiers enroute to Washington along the line of the Northern Central Railroad near Hayfields. On May 25, 1861 he was arrested, imprisoned in Fort McHenry, and indicted for treason in connection with the burning of bridges along the Railroad. His defense was he had only executed his sworn duty as an officer of Militia of Maryland. The affair came to the attention of President Lincoln and caused great excitement at the time. Merryman was eventually declared improperly held by Chief Justice Taney. During his life time he held many state offices and was always greatly interested in agriculture. He changed the property into a stock farm, importing, according to the family legend, the first Hereford cattle into this country. He also imported other blooded stock from England, as indicated by his letter head. He was asked by the City of Baltimore to obtain blooded sheep for Druid Hill Park on one of his trips to England and the present sheep there are the decendants of these sheep.

He died November 15, 1881. The property decended to Nicholas Bosley Merryman of Hayfields and is now held by his five heirs.

A copy of the will of Nicholas Merryman Bosley and an inventory of his estate, including the live stock, crops in the barns, ice in the icehouse and furniture in the house and farm implements is now in the possession of Nicholas Bosley Merryman, Jr.

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HISTORICAL DATA - Continued;

At his death the following live stock were listed in the inventory of his property;

5 yoke of oxen
10 cows
40 hogs
6 breed sows
55 sheep
17 lambs
10 horses
4 men slaves
4 women slaves
2 children slaves

It is the belief of the family that all of the buildings of the first period existed prior to the purchase of the property by Col. Nicholas Merryman Bosley, and that he built the others. The wooden buildings were built about 1900 by a tenant farmer.

The light grey crystalline marble used in the buildings by Col. Bosley was quarried in the field in front of the house. The quarry was then filled with field stone and covered with earth so that no sign of it remained and its location had been forgotten until it was uncovered a few years ago when a gas line was laid through the property. The marble is similar to that from the nearby Beaver Dam Quarry.

The lemon tree pit shown on the plans is approximately 9 feet deep and originally was covered with glass roof. It was used for the winter storage of lemon trees that were placed in large jardinières (during the summer) in the locust avenue approach. The green house has completely disappeared except for marks on the wall showing its extent and the patched coping which verifies the statement that the wall was carried higher to form the back of the green house.

It is the family tradition that the large house was designed and built by Col. Bosley between the years 1800 and 1808, but the land records show the first property was acquired by Col. Bosley in 1811. The writer thinks the details of the large residence indicate even a later date.

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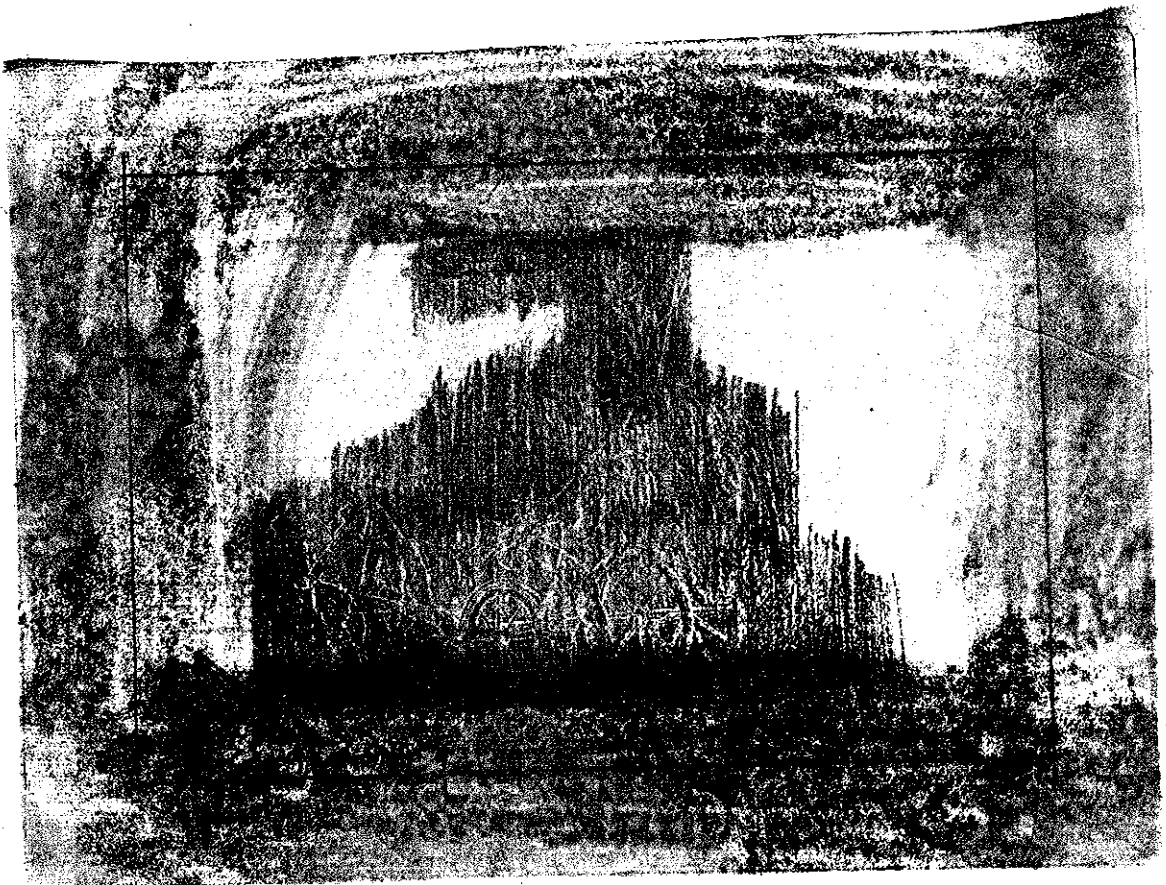
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HISTORICAL DATA - Continued;

Today the still beautiful farm is little cultivated. The buildings are empty and neglected. The spring house is surrounded by tall weeds and the green house and the lemon tree pit are but things of memory. The big house looks out over the smiling Maryland landscape and the fields await another cultivator.

John H. Scapp



Rev. Sept. 26. 1936 T.T.W.